

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 JUSE-00 SEC-01 /049 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DJOHNSON:CLD
APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN
ARA/PPC:MYOHEN
L:KEMALMBORG
ARA:JKEANE

-----282157Z 014271 /61

O R 282101Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS STATE 068388

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT'S NOON
BRIEFING MARCH 28. NO QUESTIONS ASKED. EMBASSY MAY DRAW
ON GUIDANCE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS WHICH MAY BE RAISED LOCALLY.

Q - WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE USG'S ATTEMPT TO EXTRADITE
ROBERT VESCO?

A - NO USG EXTRADITION REQUEST IS CURRENTLY PENDING BEFORE
THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA. THERE ARE PRESENTLY FOUR
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CRIMINAL INDICTMENTS OUTSTANDING AGAINST ROBERT VESCO AND
OTHERS WHO IT IS ALLEGED WERE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM. THE
LATEST OF THESE WAS BROUGHT LAST YEAR BY A FEDERAL GRAND
JURY IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

Q - HAS THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ASKED THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO
REQUEST VESCO'S EXTRADITION?

A - ON TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS -- ONCE IN THE BAHAMAS AND ONCE IN COSTA RICA -- THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, HAS ATTEMPTED TO EXTRADITE MR. VESCO TO FACE PROSECUTION ON CRIMINAL CHARGES. BOTH ATTEMPTS

PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL. NO REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR ANOTHER EXTRADITION ATTEMPT. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND OFFICIALS IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND THE OFFICE OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK HAVE KEPT IN CLOSE TOUCH ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS.

Q - WHY HASN'T THERE BEEN AN EXTRADITION REQUEST? HAS THE USG GIVEN UP ON ITS EFFORTS TO EXTRADITE VESCO?

A - I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THE USG HAS GIVEN UP ON EFFORTS TO SEE JUSTICE DONE IN THIS MATTER. AS FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE NUMEROUS COMPLEX LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN AN EXTRADITION, I MUST REFER YOU TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

Q - IS THE JACK ANDERSON QUOTE FROM AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S CABLE AN ACCURATE QUOTE?

A - IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO COMMENT ON THE CONTENTS OF CLASSIFIED CABLES. OBVIOUSLY OUR AMBASSADOR TO COSTA RICA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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COULD HAVE HAD A BEARING ON A POSSIBLE EXTRADITION REQUEST.

Q - WHO IS THE U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK?

A - HIS NAME IS ROBERT FISKE.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: VESCO: PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: PFOR, CS, (VESCO)
To: SAN JOSE
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